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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of)
)
NIKHIL R. BAXI,)
)
GARY E. PROPST and)
)
ISAAC U. SHILAD)
)
Serial No.: 10/712,920)
)
Filed: November 13, 2003)
)
Confirmation No.: 9870)
)
For: CLIP COUPLING)
)
)

Customer No.: 24045

Art Unit 3673

Vishal A. Patel, Examiner

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence was deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this November 30, 2005


Sherry L. Leonard

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Enclosed herewith for filing are the following documents:

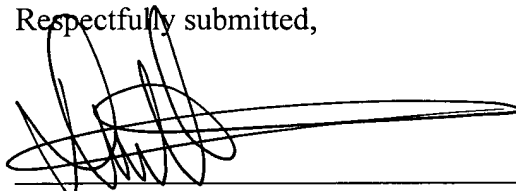
Response to the Office Action Mailed September 12, 2005

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AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0325.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2005, the Applicant(s), through their attorney, respond as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.